

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03344 231103Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /025 W
----- 047425

R 231048Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1548
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINS, NG

SUBJ: ESSO EASTERN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NIGER

REF: STATE 195442 NOTAL

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUST 21, I INQUIRED WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, SANI SIDO'S REMOVAL FROM SCENE WOULD HAVE ON AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN HIM AND US COMPANIES--PARTICULARLY ON CONTRACT WITH ESSO. DJERMAKOYE SAID GON HAVING A VERY DIFFICULT TIME UNTANGLING ALL OF SANI'S DOSSIERS AND NOTED MYRIAD OF "PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS" SANI HAD ENTERED INTO. DJERMAKOYE AFFIRMED THAT ALL AGREEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED, I.E., PASSED BY SMC AND PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE, WOULD REMAIN VALID AND BINDING.

2. DJERMAKOYE SAID HE UNSURE OF EXACT STATUS OF ESSO CONTRACT WHICH SIGNED ONLY RECENTLY AND WOULD NOT IN NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS BE READY FOR SMC ACTION AND PUBLICATION. WE WILL CHECK FURTHER NEXT FEW DAYS TO VERIFY THAT ESSO'S AGREEMENT IS NOT REPEAT NOT AFFECTED BY SANI'S REMOVAL. IN MEANTIME OUR STRONG IMPRESSION IS THAT ESSO CONTRACT NOT AFFECTED BY SANI'S REMOVAL. DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO WISH TO INFORM BUSINESS REPS AS APPROPRIATE OF PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S REITERATION OF SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST IN
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03344 231103Z

ATTRACTING MORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT HERE.HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, AGREEMENTS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NIAMEY03344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-0982
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750823/aaaaaual.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 195442
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESSO EASTERN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NIGER
TAGS: ENRG, PINS, NG, ESSO EASTERN, (SIDO, SINI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006